

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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P R 280925Z MAY 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3995

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T SEOUL 3367

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US, UN

SUBJ: KOREAN QUESTION AT U.N.

1. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LHO CALLED ME IN MAY 28 TO PASS "TALKING PAPER" CONTAINING MOFA VIEW THAT USG AND ROKG SHOULD HOLD PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS RE POSSIBLE FULL DEBATE ON KOREAN QUESTION AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA. TALKING PAPER PROPOSED THAT CONSULTATIONS BE HELD IN PARALLEL WITH BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS ON OTHER RELATED MATTERS. TEXT OF TALKING PAPER CONTAINED SEPTTEL.

2. THRUST OF TALKING PAPER IS THAT BEST OPTION WOULD BE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, PAPER ARGUES THAT WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER MERIT OF PUTTING UP OUR OWN RESOLUTION FIRST TO DEPRIVE OTHER SIDE OF INITIATIVE. CONSEQUENTLY, TALKING PAPER PROPOSES THAT USUN AND ROKG OBSERVER MISSION BE INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE DRAFT RESOLUTION AND NOTES THAT BEST WAY TO SECURE PRIORITY FOR SUCH RESOLUTION IS PRIOR INSCRIPTION. SINCE UNSYG IS SCHEDULED TO CIRCULATE PROVISIONAL AGENDA BY JULY 19, TALKING PAPER NOTES IT RATHER URGENT" FOR OUR SIDE TO MAKE DECISION "AT THIS STAGE" ON WHETHER TO INTRODUCE OUR OWN AGENDA ITEM AND DRAFT RESOLUTION.

3. IN EXPLAINING ROK POSITION LHO NOTED THAT INSCRIPTION OF KOREAN ITEM AND DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD BE ONLY "CONTINGENCY STEP." LHO SAID THAT IF WE ABLE TO REACH PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH OTHER SIDE, WE COULD ALWAYS WITHDRAW AGENDA ITEM. HOWEVER, NOTED THAT MOFA HAS

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SOME INDICATION THAT NORTH KOREANS MIGHT MAKE A SURPRISE MOVE IN

WAKE OAU MEETING TO INSCRIBE THEIR OWN ITEM (USUN 1942).

4. I TOLD LHO THAT I WOULD OF COURSE REPORT HIS APPROACH IMMEDIATELY TO DEPARTMENT, REQUESTING EARLY REPLY.
ERICSON

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NNN

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